Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 8 and replaces the original sheet including Figure 8. In particular, Figure 8 has been labeled as "Prior Art," as requested by the Examiner.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page)

REMARKS

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1-27 are currently pending, with claims 1 and 11 being independent. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the application at least at page 12, lines 11-17. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

In response to the Examiner's objection to Figure 8, applicants have amended Figure 8. The amendment is believed to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,078,150 ("Hara"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Hara does not describe or suggest receiving display data including graphic data and video signal level data, where the video signal level is obtained from the graphic data, as recited in claim 11.

Hara relates to an endoscope apparatus for determining and displaying the spectral distribution characteristics of an object. See Hara at Abstract. A monitor 46 displays an endoscope picture image 75 and the spectral distribution characteristics 77 for an object located in the portion of the image 75 designated by a pointer 76. See Hara at col. 7, lines 34-36 and Fig. 8. As illustrated in Figure 7, a memory section 66 stores red, green, and blue color image data that is output as the endoscope picture image 75. To determine the spectral distribution characteristics 77, the object is sequentially illuminated with light filtered through ten narrow band filters. See Hara at col. 7, lines 23-28. The resulting data are input to a memory section 72 and used to calculate the spectral distribution characteristics 77 of the object. See Hara at col. 7, lines 26-28.

Thus, the spectral distribution characteristics 77 are not obtained from the displayed endoscope picture image 75. Instead, the spectral distribution characteristics 77 are obtained

from the data resulting from illuminating the object with light passed through the narrow band filters.

As such, Hara does not describe or suggest receiving display data including graphic data and video signal level data, where the video signal level is obtained from the graphic data, as recited in claim 11. Accordingly, claim 11 and claim 18, which depends from claim 11, are allowable over Hara.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13 and 14

Claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 11, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 13 and 14 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11.

Claims 12 and 19

Claims 12 and 19, which depend from claim 11, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,891,697 ("Sato"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Sato does not remedy the failure of Hara to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 11. Rather, Sato describes techniques for changing the size of an image and then performing outline enhancement on the image. See Sato at Abstract.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 22-24, and 26

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 22-24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,258, 834 ("Tsuji"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Hara, Tsuji, nor any proper combination of these references describes or suggests measuring a video signal level on a

position specified in the graphic data, and generating video signal level data, where the signal level is obtained from the graphic data, as recited in claim 1.

As discussed above, Hara describes determining the spectral distribution characteristics 77 of an object from data obtained by illuminating the object with narrow bandwidth light. The calculated spectral distribution characteristics 77 for a location designated by a pointer 76 are displayed on a monitor 76 along with an endoscope picture image 75. However, the spectral distribution characteristics 77 are not obtained from the displayed endoscope picture image 75; rather, the characteristics 77 are obtained from the data resulting from illumination of an object with narrow spectral band light. Thus, Hara does not describe or suggest measuring a video signal level on a position specified in the graphic data, and generating video signal level data, where the video signal level is obtained from the graphic data, as recited in claim 1.

Tsuji relates to an electronic endoscope system having an inter-line reading image pickup device that enables photoelectric conversion of a subject image to obtain an image signal. See Tsuji at col. 3, lines 9-12. Tsuji does not remedy the failure of Hara to describe or suggest the noted features of claim 1. As such, neither Hara, Tsuji, nor any proper combination of these references describes or suggests the subject matter of claim 1.

Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 22-24, and 26.

Claim 16

Dependent claim 16, which depends from claim 11, has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,374,965 ("Kanno"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Kanno does not remedy the failure of Hara to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 11. Rather, Kanno relates to a medical network system that transmits image information using an analog transmission line. See Kanno at col. 1, lines 7-9.

Claim 17

Dependent claim 17, which depends from claim 11, has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara in view of Kanno and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0093503 ("Yamaki"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Yamaki does not remedy the failure of Hara and Kanno to describe or suggest the subject matter of claim 11. Rather, Yamaki relates to a medical equipment control system. See Yamaki at Abstract.

Claims 7 and 25

Dependent claims 7 and 25, which depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara and Tsuji in view of Kanno. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. As discussed above, neither Hara, Tsuji, Kanno, nor any proper combination of these references, describes or suggests the subject matter of claims 1 or 11.

Claims 3, 9, 21, and 27

Claims 3, 9, 21, and 27, which depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hara and Tsuji in view of Saito. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. As discussed above, neither Hara, Tsuji, Saito, nor any proper combination of these references, describes or suggests the subject matter of claims 1 or 11.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/22/07

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